



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 14-020: WOOTEN WILDLIFE AREA CAMPGROUND  
RELOCATION

#### **Description of Proposal:**

The purpose of this project is to remove two existing campgrounds from the floodplain and return the floodplain to a more riparian state. Three new campgrounds will be constructed to replace the 2 that are being decommissioned. One new campground (New Campground 6) will be constructed near the existing Campground 6 on the uphill side of the Tucannon Road to remove the impact of campers in the riparian area and floodplain. The existing Campground 6 will be closed and reclaimed as riparian and floodplain. One new campground (New Campground 9) will be constructed in an old log landing near the mouth of the Little Tucannon River. One new campground (New Campground 10) will be constructed south of the existing Campground 9, outside of the floodplain.

The project areas will be partially converted to non-forested use due to trees not being able to grow in the actual parking pads in the campsites. Trees will still be allowed to grow between sites, around the campground perimeter, and anywhere there is not gravel parking pads or roads.

Construction of New Campground 6 will require harvesting approximately 30 ponderosa pine trees to construct the road and campsites. Construction of New Campground 10 will require harvesting approximately 25 ponderosa pine trees to construct the road and campsites. The trees that are harvested at each site will be hauled to one of the Large Wood projects that will be occurring on the Wooten Wildlife Area in July 2014. Access roads and campsites will be graveled, and the campsites will be leveled. A vault toilet will be installed in a central location in each campground. Fire rings will be installed in each campsite and 1 concrete picnic table will be relocated from the 2 existing campgrounds into each of the 3 new campgrounds.

The decommissioning of the existing campgrounds will include removal of the outhouses, all of the fire rings, and the concrete picnic tables. The gravel on the driveways will be scraped off and removed, and possibly used in the new campgrounds. The access roads to the existing campgrounds will be blocked off at the end of the project. All disturbed areas will be seeded with native grass seed and planted with ponderosa pine seedlings and shrubs. The degraded riparian areas will be planted with willow whips.

The decommissioned campgrounds will be monitored for the next five years to determine vegetation survival and will be replanted as necessary to establish riparian and floodplain vegetation. Noxious weed control will continue as needed in both the decommissioned campgrounds and the new campgrounds

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Contact: Kari Dingman  
2134 Tucannon Road  
Pomeroy, WA 99347

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Wooten Wildlife Area, Columbia County, Washington:

Campground 6: Township 9N, Range 41E, Section 10  
Campground 9: Township 9N, Range 41E, Sections 30 and 32  
Campground 10: Township 8N, Range 41 East, Section 5

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on April 9, 2014**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 25, 2014

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).